

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Department of Employment Services

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### **DOES to Launch Summer Youth Employment Program Expansion**

*Youth Ages 22-24 May Apply Online Starting April 6<sup>th</sup>*

(Washington, DC) – Today, the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) announced the application process for the District’s expanded 2015 Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) that will be open to youth ages 22-24 years old, beginning at 12:00 noon today, Monday, April 6, 2015. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the expansion of the SYEP in January to now serve District youth up to the age of 24.

*“Expanding the Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program to include 22-24 year olds is extremely important to me,”* said Mayor Bowser. *“This investment in our youth is a vital part of my vision to put more DC residents on pathways to the middle class. By providing young adults with opportunities to work, earn and learn, we are ensuring they have the resources needed to compete in the local workforce and secure viable careers with good paying wages.”*

The program will provide District youth ages 22-24 with six weeks of meaningful work experience and individualized support that will help them to identify a career pathway. DOES will work closely with sister agencies to ensure that youth most in need have priority access to this opportunity, including parenting youth, youth that have been disconnected from school for a length of time, and youth transitioning out of public systems.

At the end of the six-week SYEP, youth will be offered assistance with securing additional education, training, and full-time employment. Potential opportunities for those youth who qualify include pre-apprenticeship training, career essential boot camps and training with Graduate School USA, and the District’s L.E.A.P. Academy, to name of few.

“Ensuring that all youth in the District of Columbia – particularly our young adults – are adequately prepared to compete in the District’s thriving economy is a high priority for DOES,” said Acting Director Deborah Carroll. “By expanding the SYEP to include our older youth, followed by effective youth programming and training that can lead to good jobs with good wages, DOES is committed to preparing our next generation for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

The SYEP application for youth ages 22-24 years old will be available online at [www.summerjobs.dc.gov](http://www.summerjobs.dc.gov) starting today, **Monday, April 6, 2015 at 12:00 noon**. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and must be received by **Friday, April 17, 2015**. Space is limited, so youth are encouraged to apply early.

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